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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/717,052

11/18/2003

Timothy W. Girdin

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11/01/2007

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NAM V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,052

Applicant(s)

GIRALDIN ET AL.

Examiner

Nam V. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to applicant's Amendment which is filed August 20, 2007.

An amendment to the claims 1, 17 and 33 has been entered and made of record in the application of Giraladin et al. for a "Queue management system and method".

Claims 1-48 are now pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

The amended paragraphs in specification correct the Priority were received on August 20, 2007. Since updated the status of the related applications described in the Specification, the Specification is no longer objected.

A terminal disclaimer filed on August 20, 2007 is disapproved. The disclaimer fee of \$130 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.20(d) has not been submitted, nor is there any authorization in the application file to charge a specified Deposit Account or credit card.

In view of applicant's amendment to amend the claims 17-32 to obviate the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejections, therefore, examiner has withdrawn the rejection under 35 U.S.C §101.

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Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-48, filed August 20, 2007 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9, 11-12, 15-25, 27-28, 31-41, 43-44 and 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuang (US# 5,987,421) and in view of Power (US# 6,753,782).

In claim 33, Chuang teaches of a system of communication for a confined area of a facility (i.e. amusement park) {see abstract}, comprising:

means for receiving personal identification information of a guest (i.e. Guest ID device 7, 7a (GID)) into at least one of a set of stations (i.e. Identification Signal Searching Units 3 (ISSU), Electronic Waiting-in-line Registers 4 (EWR)) distributed throughout the confined area {see column 4, lines 38-55; column 8, lines 40-56+; Fig. 1- 3};

means for receiving attraction reservation information (i.e. EWR 4) relating to at least one attraction to request at least one reservation for the guest {see column 3, lines 21-29; column 11, lines 39-46; column 12, lines 20-44; Fig. 4}; and

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means for storing said reservation information {see column 3, lines 29-35; column 12, lines 44-51} and

updating the stored reservation information at any one of the stations distributed throughout the confined area (i.e. amusement park) (column 3 lines 29 to 35, column 12 lines 45 to 60).

However, Chuang did not explicitly disclose continuously tracking the guest's location as he or she passes along a path throughout the confined area by using antennas strategically placed throughout the confined area; storing the tracking information; and locating and viewing the location of the guest on a map displayed on one of the stations in response to the stored tracking information

In the same field of endeavor of monitoring and tracking user, Power teach that continuously tracking the guest's location as he or she passes along a path throughout a institutional setting (i.e. the confined area) by using antennas (14) or detectors (3-6) strategically placed throughout a hall way (i.e. the confined area); storing the path of movement (i.e. the tracking information); and locating and viewing the location of the guest on a map displayed on one of the stations in response to the stored tracking information (column 9 lines 38 to 61 see Figures 4 to 9) in order to prevent and to substantially diminish accidents, injuries and death in all institutional and private settings.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to recognize the need for tracking the user location in the institutional setting and displayed on the path of movement taught by Power in locating individual members computerized system of Chuang because recording the information received from each

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individual and tracking the movement, position and other information would enhance the quality of user's live.

Referring to Claim 34, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for receiving registration information (i.e. Automatic Rental Stations 2 (AIRS), Central Control System 1 (CCS)) relating to a member or a group of members {see. paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4; paragraph bridging columns 9 and 10}.

Referring to Claim 35, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 34, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for determining (i.e. GID) whether the guest is registered in response to the personal identification information {see column 9~ lines 10-21}. In claim 36, a system according to claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for displaying (i.e. GID view screen 16 or big time boards) the length of time for waiting for at least one attraction of the facility {see column 12, lines 44-64; Fig. 10, 150- 152}.

Referring to Claim 37 Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for displaying (i.e. GID view screen 16 or big time boards) the length of time associated with the use of at least one attraction of the facility {see column 12, lines 44- 64; Fig. 10, 150-152}.

Referring to Claim 38, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for displaying (i.e. map of the park) the distance

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to an attraction and the distance between attractions {see column 12, lines 16-19+; column 13, lines 41-49}.

Referring to Claim 39, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for varying the available attraction time slots (i.e. EWR) for the starting and ending times for attractions (i.e. exchange registration to another attraction) {see column 13, lines 1-11; Fig. 10, 148}.

Referring to Claim 40, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for displaying attraction reservation information (i.e. GID view screen 16), and receiving information to change the attraction reservation information (i.e. exchange registration to another attraction) at one or more of the stations (i.e. EWR) {see column 14, lines 1-9+}.

Referring to Claim 41, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a "means for creating a message that an attraction is no longer available and assigning another attraction or starting time", {described in column 9, lines 48-54+ and column 13, lines 8-11+}.

Referring to Claim 43, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for receiving the personal identification

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information at a separate entrance (i.e. GID device detector 20) to the reserved attraction {see column 12, lines 38-60}.

Referring to Claim 44, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 34, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for monitoring the length of time the guest waits in a queue for a reserved attraction {see column 12, lines 51-59}.

Referring to Claim 47, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang teaches of a means for generating line management system reports, said reports including a line management account for a given guest or group member, such as reports regarding attractions a guest has registered into and the times of the attractions so that the guest may be reminded to proceed to a registered attraction {described in column 12, lines 47- 66+}.

Referring to Claim 34, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for monitoring whether the guest attends the reserved attraction {see column 13, lines 8-11}.

Claims 1-9, 11-12 and 15-16, recites a method for practicing the system of claims 33-41,43-44 and 47-48, and therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Claim 17-25, 27-28 and 31-32 recites a system of communication, recited in claims 33-41,43-44 and 47-48, and therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Claims 10, 26 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuang (US# 5,987,421) and in view of Power (US# 6,753,782) as applied to Claims 1, 17 and 33, and in further view of US Patent 5,987,421 {hereinafter 'Waytena et al'}.

Referring to Claim 42, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 33, however, Chuang in view of Power does not disclose a "means for permitting reservation information to be received only a set number of times for a certain number of attractions". However, these claims are conventional as evidenced by Waytena et al. Waytena, in the same field of endeavor, teach of a request filtering and generation module 203 for processing reservation requests for particular attractions wherein filtering includes determining whether a patron description is allowed to attend a certain attraction or whether the patron has exceeded a limited number of reservation at various attractions {see Waytena, column 8, lines 31-46+}. Filtering is based on age, height weight, number of reservations made by the patron, time of day, location, distance to attractions and other information {see Waytena, column 7, lines 29-51+}. Waytena suggests that such filtering is advantageous because some of the patrons maybe under age for certain shows or some patrons have special requirements in order to participate in certain attractions {see Waytena, column 16, lines 19-22; column 8, lines 9-3i}. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of applicant's invention, to include the request filtering and generation module of Waytena in the system of Chuang in view of Power because, as taught by Waytena, some of the patrons maybe under age for certain shows or some patrons have special requirements in order to participate in certain attractions.

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Claim 10 recites a method for practicing the system of claims 42 and therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Claim 26 recites the limitations of claims 42 and therefore rejected for the same obvious reasons.

Claims 13-14, 29-30 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuang (US# 5,987,421) in view of Power (US# 6,753,782) as applied to Claims 1, 17 and 33, and in further view of US 2003/0102956 A1 {hereinafter 'McManus et al'}.

Referring to Claim 45, Chuang in view of Power disclose the system according to Claim 44, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for determining whether the person entering the information is registered {see column 12, lines 38-44}, however, Chuang in view of Power does not disclose, "means for receiving personal identification information at the end of a queue".

McManus et al, in an analogous art, teach of a means for receiving personal identification information at the end of a queue (i.e. first attraction scanner) {see McManus, paragraphs 0035}.

McManus suggests that such features are of great benefit to patrons because it provides means to establish only a single line for each specific attraction to thereby make a determination on how long a patron's wait in a queue line will be {see McManus, paragraphs 0037 and 0050}.

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of applicant's invention, to include such features in the system of Chuang in view of Power because,

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as taught by McManus, it provides means to establish only a single line for each specific attraction to thereby make a determination on how long a patron's wait in the queue line will be.

Referring to Claim 46, Chuang in view of Power and McManus disclose the system according to Claim 45, wherein Chuang further teaches of a means for receiving personal identification information at the beginning of the queue, and determining whether a person should be admitted to the attraction {see column 13, lines 4-7}.

Claims 13-14 recites a method for practicing the system of claims 45-46 and therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Claims 29-30 recites the limitations of claims 45-46 and therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tuttle (US# 5,914,671) discloses a system and method for locating individuals and equipment, airline reservation system, communication system.

Sim (US# 6,529,786) discloses a queue management system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nam V Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3061. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

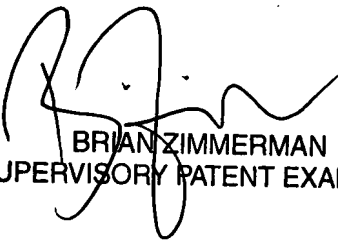
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Zimmerman can be reached on 571- 272-3059. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nam Nguyen
October 29, 2007



BRIAN ZIMMERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER